

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on September 8, 2004. Claims 1-8 are pending.

Reconsideration of the rejection of record is respectfully requested in view of the amended claims and following remarks.

Claims 4-6 and 8 are allowed in the Office Action.

Claim 4 is amended and written in independent form to include the limitations of Claims 1, 2 and 3.

Claim 8 is amended and written in independent form to include the limitations of Claim 7.

Claims 1-3 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of such claims in a continuing application.

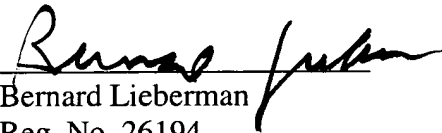
Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nickel et al (2003/0150064). Applicants submit that this rejection is now moot in view of the amended claims.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under the doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,096. There is submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,096.

In view of the above, the application and claims are deemed to be in allowable form, and an action passing the case to issue is respectfully requested.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,


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